



State of North Carolina

ROY COOPER
GOVERNOR

82ND AIRBORNE DAY

2017

BY THE GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA

A PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, the 82nd Airborne Division was formed in August, 1917, for entry into World War I; with soldiers from all states in the Union, the division was nicknamed “The All American Division” and for 100 years since it has embodied the finest qualities of our nation; and

WHEREAS, the 82nd Airborne Division has been All American for the past century, and our tradition of full representation of the American experience continues today: the 82nd was the first racially-integrated division in American history with the inclusion of the all-black 555th Parachute Infantry Battalion in 1947, and the first division to integrate female infantry officers in 2016; and

WHEREAS, in July, 1943, the 82nd Airborne Division conducted the first large-scale airborne assault in American history with Operation Husky, the invasion of Sicily during World War II; 82nd Paratroopers jumped into combat knowing they were unlikely to survive the landing, and those who did faced some of the fiercest fighting of the war; and

WHEREAS, the 82nd Airborne Division’s 504th Parachute Infantry Regiment fought at Anzio in January, 1944, when 82nd Paratroopers trained to conduct airborne assaults became amphibious assault troops, conducting a beachhead invasion to fight the Herman Goering Division; in a diary found at Anzio, a German officer referred to the paratroopers of the 504th as “devils in baggy pants,” and the nickname has survived the generations—today, the Devils in Baggy Pants are respected around the world; and

WHEREAS, 82nd Paratroopers have fought with courage on behalf of our nation around the globe, including in the Dominican Republic in 1965 and Panama in 1989; the third brigade fought in the Mekong Delta in Vietnam in the 1960s and in Grenada in 1983; 82nd Paratroopers answered the call for our nation and allies throughout the Cold War, and more recently fought in Iraq and Afghanistan; and in the face of natural disaster, the 82nd Airborne Division provided relief and stability in New Orleans in 2005 and Haiti in 2010; and

WHEREAS, the 82nd Airborne Division is the most ready division in the country, standing guard as the Global Response Force ready to deploy thousands of Paratroopers anywhere in the world within 18 hours; and

WHEREAS, North Carolina is proud that the 82nd Airborne Division, based at Fort Bragg, calls our state home; and

WHEREAS, the State of North Carolina commends the 82nd Airborne Division on a century of excellence in service to our nation, and honors the All American service members and veterans, and those lost protecting our freedom, for their sacrifice and courage;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, ROY COOPER, Governor of the State of North Carolina, do hereby proclaim August 25, 2017, as “82ND AIRBORNE DAY” in North Carolina, and commend its observance to all citizens.





Roy Cooper
Governor

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the Great Seal of the State of North Carolina at the Capitol in Raleigh this twenty-fifth day of August in the year of our Lord two thousand and seventeen and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and forty-first.